

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION

1937 AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM

NORTHEAST REGION

9 WAYS TO CONSERVE SOIL AND

QUALIFY FOR PAYMENTS IN RHODE ISLAND

SOIL-BUILDING PRACTICES

	See Page
1. LIMING CROPLAND AND PASTURE	2
2. USING SUPERPHOSPHATE OR BASIC SLAG WITH SOIL-CONSERVING CROPS	3
3. USING MURIATE OF POTASH WITH SOIL-CONSERVING CROPS	3
4. USING NITRATE OF SODA WITH SOIL-CONSERVING CROPS	3
5. SEEDING CLOVER	4
6. SEEDING ALFALFA	4
7. GROWING SMALL GRAINS OR ANNUAL GRASSES AS GREEN-MANURE CROPS	5
8. GROWING LEGUMES AS GREEN-MANURE CROPS	5
9. MULCHING ORCHARDS	6

TO RHODE ISLAND FARMERS:

By doing one or more of the nine things listed above you can qualify for payment under the 1937 agricultural conservation program. The payments will cover part of the out-of-pocket cost of using the practices. This leaflet gives the rates of payment for each practice and tells just what to do to be eligible for a payment. The payments and the rates given are contingent upon Congress making available for 1937 the full amount of money authorized in the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act.

A top limit will be established for the amount which may be earned by adopting soil-building practices on any one farm. "The Soil-Building Allowance" (p. 2) tells how to figure out what that allowance will be for your farm. "Applying for Payment" and "Other Points Affecting Payment" (p. 6) also contain information you will need. Terms such as "cropland" and "open noncrop pasture" have definite meanings in this program. These and other terms are defined on page 7.

After you find out just how the program will help you carry out your plans for good farming, you will need to discuss these plans with your county agent or committeeman, to make sure that what you intend to do can be approved as good farming for your particular land.

Probably there is nothing unfamiliar in the list of soil-building practices. All of them are suited to conditions in Rhode Island and have been encouraged by the State extension service. Many successful farmers have been using them for years. The importance of liming has been emphasized by the Rhode Island Experiment Station for many years. The soil on many farms in the State needs either phosphoric acid, potash, nitrogen, or combinations of the three, to supply the proper plant food. Turning under green-manure crops enriches the soil.

THE SOIL-BUILDING ALLOWANCE

Rhode Island farmers who properly carry out one or more of the approved soil-building practices will be eligible for payments within the limits of their soil-building allowances. The soil-building allowance is the total amount of money which may be earned by adopting soil-building practices on a farm. A farmer may earn all or part of his allowance, depending on the approved practices he uses. But he cannot earn more than his allowance, no matter how many practices he uses.

The items listed below will be counted in determining a farm's soil-building allowance. Every farm will have an allowance of at least \$20, even if the items that apply do not add up to that amount.

\$1 for every acre of cropland.

\$1 additional for each acre of commercial orchards cultivated on the farm on January 1, 1937.

\$1 additional for each acre of cropland on which *only one* crop of commercial vegetables was grown in 1936.

\$2 additional for each acre of cropland on which *two or more* crops of commercial vegetables were grown on the same acreage in 1936.

40 cents additional for each acre of fenced noncrop open pasture land in excess of one-half of the number of acres of cropland on the farm.

SOIL-BUILDING PRACTICES

A Rhode Island farmer may adopt any one or more of the following practices which will help to improve his farm.

If a practice calls for the use of specific materials such as limestone, a farmer may substitute equivalent amounts of any other approved material which serves the same purpose, and still qualify for payment.

LIMING CROPLAND AND PASTURE

Practice No. 1.—RATE OF PAYMENT: \$1 per 500 pounds.

Applying 500 to 4,000 pounds of ground limestone, or its equivalent, per acre, to cropland or pasture land.

Ground limestone is limestone which will analyze at least 80 percent carbonates 90 percent of which will pass through a 20-mesh sieve, and 50 percent of which will pass through a 100-mesh sieve.

Equivalents of 500 pounds of ground limestone are: (a) 350 pounds of hydrated lime, or (b) 500 pounds of pulverized oystershell containing at least 80 percent carbonates. Equivalent amounts of other approved material also may be used.

USING SUPERPHOSPHATE, MURIATE OF POTASH, OR NITRATE OF SODA WITH SOIL-CONSERVING CROPS

Applying superphosphate, muriate of potash, nitrate of soda, or basic slag, or approved combinations of these materials, according to methods described below, to established sod in pastures, orchards, or hay lands or in connection with the seeding of biennial or perennial legumes or green-manure crops. Approved methods of using the fertilizers are listed under "Applying Fertilizers to Established Grasses and Legumes" (p. 3) and "Establishing New Seedings of Grasses and Legumes" (p. 4).

Practice No. 2.—RATE OF PAYMENT: 64 cents per 100 pounds of 16 percent superphosphate or basic slag.

When superphosphate is applied in connection with a seeding made in a nurse crop which is harvested for grain, payment will be made only for amounts of 16 percent superphosphate in excess of 200 pounds per acre.

Two hundred pounds is the smallest amount and 500 pounds is the largest amount of 16 percent superphosphate per acre for which payment will be made when applied to pasture, hay land, green-manure crops, new seedings of grasses or legumes, or to sod in orchards (provided that the sod is limed and the entire interplanted crop in the orchard is left on the land).

Payment will also be made for 16 percent superphosphate when added to farm manures as a preservative and reinforcement, if such farm manures are for use on established sod, or in connection with the seeding of biennial or perennial legumes or green-manure crops. Payment will be made for the application of not less than 20 pounds of 16 percent superphosphate or not more than 50 pounds per ton of manure.

Practice No. 3.—RATE OF PAYMENT: \$1.50 per 100 pounds of 50 percent muriate of potash.

Fifty pounds is the smallest amount and 200 pounds is the largest amount of 50 percent muriate of potash per acre for which payment will be made when applied to hay land, pasture, new seedings of grasses or legumes, green-manure crops, or in orchards (provided that the entire interplanted crop in the orchard is left on the land).

Practice No. 4.—RATE OF PAYMENT: 64 cents per 100 pounds of 16 percent nitrate of soda.

No payment will be made for 16 percent nitrate of soda used in excess of 200 pounds per acre, or for 16 percent nitrate of soda applied to hay lands in excess of 150 pounds per acre.

The limits on the quantities of 16 percent nitrate of soda per acre for which payment is allowed are as follows:

	Smallest amount (Pounds)	Largest amount (Pounds)
On pasture, hay land, or in orchards provided that the entire interplanted crop in the orchard is left on the land.....	100	200
On new seedings of legumes or grasses, or on green-manure crops.....	100	150

Applying Fertilizers to Established Grasses and Legumes.—The payments listed for using phosphoric acid, potash, and nitrogen can be earned if the materials are applied between March 1, 1937, and December 1, 1937. The materials are to be applied only on established grasses and legumes on hay land, or pasture land, or in orchards which

are in sod (provided that the interplanted crop in the orchards is allowed to remain as a mulch).

At least the following quantities of the following materials or their equivalent in commercial fertilizer per acre should be used:

- 325 pounds of 16 percent superphosphate; or
- 325 pounds of 16 percent superphosphate on hay or pasture land, which at the same time or previously during the calendar year 1937 has received an application of stable manure of not less than 10 spreader loads per acre. If superphosphate has been applied to manure, the total application of superphosphate should not exceed 325 pounds per acre; or
- 325 pounds of 16 percent superphosphate and 100 pounds of 50 percent muriate of potash; or
- 325 pounds of 16 percent superphosphate, 125 pounds of 16 percent nitrate of soda, and 100 pounds of 50 percent muriate of potash; or
- 1,500 pounds of ground limestone and 325 pounds of 16 percent superphosphate; or
- 1,500 pounds of ground limestone, 325 pounds of 16 percent superphosphate, and 50 pounds of 50 percent muriate of potash; or
- 1,500 pounds of ground limestone, 325 pounds of 16 percent superphosphate, and 100 pounds of 50 percent muriate of potash; or
- (On pastures only) 1,500 pounds of ground limestone, 325 pounds of 16 percent superphosphate, 200 pounds of 16 percent nitrate of soda, and 100 pounds of 50 percent muriate of potash; or
- (On hay lands only) 1,500 pounds of ground limestone, 325 pounds of 16 percent superphosphate, 150 pounds of 16 percent nitrate of soda, and 100 pounds of 50 percent muriate of potash; or
- (On permanent pastures or orchards only) 400 pounds of basic slag meal.

SEEDING CLOVER

Practice No. 5.—RATE OF PAYMENT: \$2 per acre.

Seeding hardy northern-grown domestic or Canadian medium red clover, or mixtures containing at least 5 pounds per acre of such medium red clover seed or its equivalent in other clover seed, on land prepared for seeding by the application of amounts of lime and fertilizer specified by the county committee, or on land without such application when soil tests or other evidence satisfactory to the committee indicate that the application is not needed. This seeding must be made between dates specified by the county committee.

SEEDING ALFALFA

Practice No. 6.—RATE OF PAYMENT: \$3 per acre.

Seeding hardy northern-grown domestic or Canadian alfalfa, or mixtures containing at least 5 pounds per acre of such alfalfa seed, on land prepared for the seeding by the application of amounts of lime and fertilizer specified by the county committee, or on land without such application when soil tests, or other evidence satisfactory to the committee, indicate that the application is not needed. This seeding must be made between dates specified by the county committee.

Establishing New Seedings of Grasses and Legumes.—Rates of payment listed for seeding clover and alfalfa and for using phosphoric acid, potash, and nitrogen can be earned if the seeding is made before October 1, 1937, and if the fertilizers are applied between March 1 and October 1, 1937, at or before the time of seeding.

If the legumes are mixed with grass, the mixtures seeded should contain at least 5 pounds per acre of hardy northern-grown domestic or Canadian medium red clover or alfalfa seed, or any alsike clover

seed. Seeding can be made without a nurse crop or with any nurse crop commonly used in the community which is cut green or pastured sufficiently to prevent grain formation.

To prepare the soil, any one of the following applications is recommended:

- 400 pounds of 16 percent superphosphate and 200 pounds of 50 percent muriate of potash on such fields as show from approved soil tests that an application of lime is not necessary in order to produce a satisfactory growth of the legume sown; or
- 1,000 pounds of ground limestone and 325 pounds of 16 percent superphosphate; or
- 2,000 pounds of ground limestone and 325 pounds of 16 percent superphosphate; or
- 2,000 pounds of ground limestone, 325 pounds of 16 percent superphosphate, and 100 pounds of 50 percent muriate of potash; or
- 3,000 pounds of ground limestone and 325 pounds of 16 percent superphosphate; or
- 3,000 pounds of ground limestone, 325 pounds of 16 percent superphosphate, and 100 pounds of 50 percent muriate of potash; or
- (On pastures only) 3,000 pounds of ground limestone, 325 pounds of 16 percent superphosphate, 200 pounds of 16 percent nitrate of soda, and 100 pounds of 50 percent muriate of potash; or
- (On hay lands only) 3,000 pounds of ground limestone, 325 pounds of 16 percent superphosphate, 150 pounds of 16 percent nitrate of soda, and 100 pounds of 50 percent muriate of potash; or
- (On pastures only) 4,000 pounds of ground limestone, 400 pounds of 16 percent superphosphate, 200 pounds of 16 percent nitrate of soda, and 200 pounds of 50 percent muriate of potash; or
- (On hay lands only) 4,000 pounds of ground limestone, 400 pounds of 16 percent superphosphate, 150 pounds of 16 percent nitrate of soda, and 200 pounds of 50 percent muriate of potash.

GROWING SMALL GRAINS OR ANNUAL GRASSES AS GREEN-MANURE CROPS

Practice No. 7.—RATE OF PAYMENT: \$1.50 per acre.

Plowing or disking under small grains, annual grasses, or mixtures of these with legumes, after they have attained at least 2 months' or 12 inches' growth.

GROWING LEGUMES AS GREEN-MANURE CROPS

Practice No. 8.—RATE OF PAYMENT: \$2.50 per acre.

Plowing or disking under biennial or perennial legumes from which no crop has been harvested and for which no seeding payment will be, or has been, made under this or any previous program, and which have attained at least 2 months' or 12 inches' growth; or annual legumes which have attained such growth.

OTHER WAYS TO USE GREEN-MANURE PRACTICES

If green-manure crops are turned under on land that normally is used for the production of commercial vegetables so that at least one crop of commercial vegetables is replaced, the rates of payment for practices no. 7 and no. 8 will be doubled.

If annual grains are clipped green and left on land that normally is used for the production of commercial vegetables, and no crop is removed from the land in 1937, the following substitute practice may be used: If the clipped grains are followed by legume crops specified in practice no. 8, and the legumes are left on the land for the remainder of the 1937 growing season, it will not be necessary to

turn under either crop. Clipping the grains takes the place of turning them under, and leaving the legumes on the land takes the place of turning them under. The provision for doubled rates still will apply.

Leaving the entire crop on the land during the winter may be substituted for the plowing or disking under in practices no. 7 or no. 8 if the crop is one that normally is winter-killed.

MULCHING ORCHARDS

Practice No. 9.—RATE OF PAYMENT: \$2 per ton on not more than 5 tons per acre.

Applying to orchards not less than 2 tons per acre of mulching material in addition to leaving in the orchard all material produced therein during 1937 from grass, legume, green-manure, or cover crops.

APPLYING FOR PAYMENT

To be eligible to participate in the 1937 agricultural conservation program, a farmer should make out the necessary forms and supply other essential information. Forms and information shall be filed with the county committee within time limits established by the State committee with the approval of the Director of the Northeast Division of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

Payments will be made only upon application on the proper form filed with the county committee within the time fixed by the Secretary of Agriculture, supported by any necessary information regarding farming operations.

An application for payment may be made by any producer who is entitled to receive all or a share of the crops, or the proceeds of the crops, produced on the farm in 1937, or any producer who incurs all or any part of the expense of soil-building practices carried out on the farm.

OTHER POINTS AFFECTING PAYMENT

RATES OF PAYMENT.—The rates of payment listed in this leaflet may be increased or decreased by not more than 10 percent, depending on how many farmers take part in the program.

APPROVAL REQUIRED.—Payment will be made only if a soil-building practice is in line with generally accepted standards of good farming. For that reason, every farmer who plans to carry out a soil-building practice should first consult with his county committee, to make sure that the practice is suitable to his farm and that the materials and methods he plans to use are up to approved standards.

TIME LIMIT.—Payments under the 1937 program will be made only for practices carried out before December 1, 1937.

NO DUPLICATION OF PAYMENT.—No payment will be made for a practice carried out on any acreage if labor, seed, or other material used in carrying out the practice is furnished free or paid for by a State or Federal agency.

INCREASE IN ACREAGE OF GENERAL SOIL-DEPLETING CROPS.—The Secretary of Agriculture reserves the right to make deductions from payments otherwise earned if in 1937 a farm has an acreage of general soil-depleting crops in excess of 20 acres, and larger than the farm's

normal acreage of such crops. The rate of deduction will be \$11.50 for each acre by which the 1937 acreage of general soil-depleting crops exceeds the general soil-depleting base acreage which can be established for the farm.

ASSOCIATION EXPENSES.—In computing payments, deductions will be made for County Agricultural Conservation Association expenses.

1937 OPERATIONS MUST BE CONSISTENT WITH PROGRAM.—Payments may be withheld if any rotation, cropping, or other practice which tends to defeat the purpose of the program is adopted in 1937. No payment will be made for any practice unless it is generally considered good farming practice for the locality.

OTHER GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS.—On any farm where a program is carried out in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service or the Resettlement Administration, payment will be made only for carrying out such soil-building practices as are, prior to performance, approved for the farm by the county committee in accordance with special instructions issued by the Secretary of Agriculture governing such cases.

DIVISION OF PAYMENTS.—On farms where two or more producers are concerned, the soil-building payment shall be divided among them in proportion to each producer's share of the total expense of carrying out the soil-building practices, according to the facts found by the county committee.

MEMBERSHIP IN ASSOCIATION

Any person having an interest in the crops, or proceeds of crops, produced on any farm in his county in 1937 shall become a member of the County Agricultural Conservation Association whenever any form or information required in connection with the 1937 program is submitted for the farm in which he is interested, or whenever in 1937 he attends a meeting called for the purpose of electing committeemen. Any person shall cease to be a member of the association if in 1937 he does not file an application for payment within the time specified by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Each county association shall designate a group of persons to assist in the administration of the 1937 program in the county. That group will be known as the county agricultural conservation committee, or county committee.

DEFINITIONS

CROPLAND is farm land which is tillable and on which at least one crop other than wild hay was harvested or planted for harvest between January 1, 1930, and January 1, 1937, and any other farm land devoted on January 1, 1937, to fruit orchards, vineyards, or cultivated bush fruits, other than those abandoned.

COMMERCIAL ORCHARDS means tree fruits, cultivated nut trees, vineyards, or cultivated bush fruits, on the farm on January 1, 1937, from which the principal part of the production is normally sold, including also the acreage of young nonbearing orchards from which the principal part of the production will be sold in 1937 or later.

COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES means vegetables or truck crops from which the principal part of the production was sold off the farm in

1936. These include among others potatoes, sweetpotatoes, melons, cantaloups, and strawberries, but exclude sweet corn for canning and peas for canning.

OPEN NONCROP PASTURE means fenced noncrop pasture land on which the predominant growth is forage suitable for dairy animals, and on which the number or grouping of any trees or shrubs is such that the land could not fairly be considered as woodland. Each 5 acres of such land must be capable of supporting at least one cow or one horse, or the equivalent in smaller animals, during the normal pasture season. Five sheep, five goats, two calves, or two colts are considered the equivalents of one cow or one horse.